



Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

HB 5673 An Act Concerning the Reformation of Certain Taxes and Tax Equity

Good afternoon, Chairman Fonfara, Chairwoman Horn, ranking members, and members of the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee. My name is Jody Barr and I serve as the Executive Director of AFSCME Council 4 which represents 30,000 public and private sector employees throughout Connecticut. I am here today to testify in support of HB 5673, An Act Concerning the Reformation of Certain Taxes and Tax Equity.

Connecticut is the wealthiest state in the country but is unfortunately among the most unequal. In 2014, a tax incidence analysis that was done by DRS showed that the bottom 50% of earners contribute 23.6% of their income in taxes while the top 1% contribute 7.5%. In 2014 we were able to see that our tax system was unfair and favors the wealthiest in our state. In the 2022 report that was released last year, it showed that low income households contribute up to 26% of their income in taxes while top income earners contributions have remained flat. In the last 8 years we've seen our tax system become even more unequal and more burdensome on working families.

To address inequality and invest in public services we need to pass a comprehensive and forward looking bill. HB 5673 would do that and bring equity to taxpayers in our state. In this bill, it would adjust tax rates on the wealthiest in our state which would bring in hundreds of millions in tax revenue. It would also expand the child tax credit and double the property tax leading to relief for working families. I also want to touch on Section 12 which would hire an additional 45 wage enforcement officers at the Department of Labor. These workers help recoup millions for workers who have been exploited and hold bad businesses accountable.

I urge you to pass HB 5673. Thank you,